

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01048 221504Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03
IO-13 ACDA-12 /081 W
-----116784 222217Z /64

R 221401Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6965
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USIA WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, SY, US
SUBJECT: ATHERTON MEDIATION REBUKED

1. DESPITE ITS FOCUS ON ASSAD'S MOSCOW VISIT, SYRIAN MEDIA
CONTINUE TO FIND SPACE FOR CRITICISM OF US MEDIATION ROLE.
THREE SEPARATE EDITORIALS AND ANALYSES DEVOTED TO SUBJSRT
FEB 21-22.

2. FEB 21 EDITORIAL CLAIMS THAT ATHERTON MUST ENCOUNTER
SEVERAL MORE "BUMPS" IN THE ROAD BEFORE ARRIVING AT THE
US GOAL AND PROJECTS:
--THAT EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DIFFERENCES WILL CONTINUE TO BE
HIGHLIGHTED PRIOR TO SETTling THEM IN ISRAEL'S FAVOR;
--SADAT WILL BE PORTRAYED AS NEGOTIATING ON UNEQUAL FOOTING
WITH BEGIN;
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--ATHERTON WOULD PERFORM SOME "MIRACLES" A LA
KISSINGER; AND
--ALL THIS WOULD BE AIMED AT DEMONSTRATING THAT US ALONE
HAD THE MEANS TO SETTLE THE ME CONFLICT.

3. COMMON THEME THROUGHOUT IS THAT US ORCHESTRATING

DISPUTES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND EGYPT TO IMPLY (FALSELY) THAT SADAT
IS NOT SURRENDERING ARAB POSITIONS. ISRAELI OBJECTIONS
TO SALE OF F-5'S TO EGYPT MUST BE SEEN IN THIS LIGHT. EGYPT, IT
IS CLAIMED, WILL USE ITS NEW PLANES IN COOPERATION WITH
ISRAEL TO SAFEGUARD US INTERESTS IN AFRICAN AND THE ARAB
WORLD. MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS, BRIEFING MATERIALS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780230/aaaaayow.tel
Line Count: 68
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: fbbab7d2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Subject: ATHERTON MEDIATION REBUKED
TAGS: SOPN, PEPR, SY, US, (ATHERTON, ALFRED L)
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Sheryl P. Walter
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